

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :

Yuichi HOSHIYAMA :

Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH

Serial No. NEW :

Docket No. 2001_1297A

Filed September 12, 2001 :

AN APPARATUS FOR ENGRAVING IMAGES
AND ITS ADAPTOR

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination of the above-identified new patent application,
kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 14, with the following
rewritten paragraph:

There have been proposed various engraving apparatuses (for example, U.S.
Patent No. 5,232,321, Japanese Patent publication Nos. 115676/1989, 24395/1993 and
Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 201762/1998).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claim 3 as follows:

3.(Amended) An adaptor for use in an apparatus for engraving images on a passport as claimed in claim 1, which comprises a rectangular table, a holding table and an inclined table which is rigidly secured to an one edge portion of the holding table and a lid plate which is pivotally secured to another edge portion of the inclined table, said holding table having a given thickness and width, said rectangular plane being defined by the rectangular groove and being dented slightly for about 0.1mm, a pair of small air openings being provided through the adaptor to located at the upper and lower grooves, thus absorbing air from backside to hold the engraved passport P on the rectangular dent portion, a pair of positioning ridges being provided on a top and a side portions of the said holding table, a rectangular window being provided through the lid plate in order to correspond with the rectangular dent portion, a pair of clips being provided at both corner portions of the inclined table, and a pair of grips being mounted at both upper and lower portions of an outer edge portion of the lid plate so that the engraved passport may be correctly held between the holding table and the lid plate and smooth engraving can be easily carried out without causing vibration.

Kindly add the following new claim:

4.(NEW) An adaptor for use in an apparatus for engraving images on a passport as claimed in claim 1, which comprises a rectangular table, a holding table and an inclined table which is rigidly secured to an one edge portion of the holding table and a lid plate which is pivotally secured to another edge portion of the inclined table, said holding table having a given thickness and width, said rectangular plane being defined by the rectangular groove and being dented slightly for about 0.1mm, a pair of small air openings being provided through the adaptor to located at the upper and lower grooves,

thus absorbing air from backside to hold the engraved passport P on the rectangular dent portion, a pair of positioning ridges being provided on a top and a side portions of the said holding table, a rectangular window being provided through the lid plate in order to correspond with the rectangular dent portion, a pair of clips being provided at both corner portions of the inclined table, and a pair of grips being mounted at both upper and lower portions of an outer edge portion of the lid plate so that the engraved passport may be correctly held between the holding table and the lid plate and smooth engraving can be easily carried out without causing vibration.

REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to correct a typographical error in the specification and to delete the multiple dependency of claim 3, thereby placing such claim in condition for examination and reducing the required PTO filing fee.

Copies of the amended portion of claim 3 with changes marked therein is attached and entitled "*Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.*"

Respectfully submitted,

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AN APPARATUS FOR ENGRAVING
IMAGES AND ITS ADAPTOR
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of The invention

This invention relates to an apparatus for engraving images and its adaptor, and more particularly, an apparatus for engraving images such as photographs of faces, addresses, names, autographs, the images for engraving information identifying one's identity, the images from a digital camera, scanner or other information taken from a computer through a network on identification cards such as passports, drivers' licenses, employee certificates or credit cards, and its adaptor.

2. Description of the Prior Art

- (A) There have been proposed various engraving apparatuses (for example, US Patent No. 5,232,231³²¹, Japanese Patent publication Nos. 115676/1989, 24395/1993 and Japanese Utility Model Publication No.201762/1988).

According to the conventional apparatus for engraving images on the passports, driver's licenses, employee certificates or credit cards, a magnetic layer is coated on a surface of a plastic card or synthetic paper, and if necessary, a given thin colored layer is coated on a surface of the magnetic layer or synthetic paper, on which a given magnetic picture or image is engraved by a cutting head or a stylus.

When making the passports, driver's licenses,

and a Z-axis head;

a stylus provided at a lower portion of the Z-axis head;

a minute ΔY -axis driver having a Y-axis head driver and a ΔY -axis head connected to said stylus; and

a Y-axis driver comprising a tilt pulse motor driver and a tilt pulse motor disposed at a front portion of the Y-axis driver in such a manner that when an adaptor is tilted rearwards, an engraved media such as a passport P or an identification card ID can be easily placed on the adaptor.

2. An adaptor for use in an apparatus for engraving images as claimed in Claim 1, which comprises a rectangular table having a given thickness and width and being put on the feeder, said rectangular table having a positioning rectangular groove provided near an outer periphery of the said rectangular plane which is defined by the rectangular groove and dented slightly for about 0.1mm, a pair of small air openings provided through the adaptor to locate at the upper and lower grooves, an air hose being disposed at a backside of said table, one end portion of said air hose being put into the air opening from a backside and another end being connected to a vacuum pump in order to hold an identification through a negative pressure of air.

3. (Amended) An adaptor for use in an apparatus for engraving

images on a passport as claimed in Claims 1 and 2, which comprises a rectangular table, a holding table and an inclined table which is rigidly secured to an one edge portion of the holding table and a lid plate which is pivotally secured to another edge portion of the inclined table, said holding table having a given thickness and width, said rectangular plane being defined by the rectangular groove and being dented slightly for about 0.1mm, a pair of small air openings being provided through the adaptor to locate at the upper and lower grooves, thus absorbing air from backside to hold the engraved passport P on the rectangular dent portion, a pair of positioning ridges being provided on a top and a side portions of the said holding table, a rectangular window being provided through the lid plate in order to correspond with the rectangular dent portion, a pair of clips being provided at both corner portions of the inclined table, and a pair of grips being mounted at both upper and lower portions of an outer edge portion of the lid plate so that the engraved passport may be correctly held between the holding table and the lid plate and smooth engraving can be easily carried out without causing vibration.